

## **DATA STORAGE SYSTEMS AND METHODS**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A data storage system includes a first data storage medium for storing data, the first data storage medium currently configured as an accessible medium; a second data storage medium for storing a copy of the data, the second data storage medium currently configured as a standby medium; first configuration information defining a switching trigger when the first data storage medium currently configured as the accessible medium becomes the standby medium and when the second data storage medium currently configured as the standby medium becomes the accessible medium; and a data storage system manager using the first configuration information to control the switching. The first data storage medium and second data storage medium may each be in a power-saving state. The accessible medium thus may be in a power-saving mode. The standby medium thus may be in a power-saving mode or in a power-off mode. The accessible medium may be read-only. The switching trigger may be a time period, an equation of access time or an administrative request. There data storage system may include additional data storage media for storing additional copies of the data, the additional data storage media also configured as standby media.